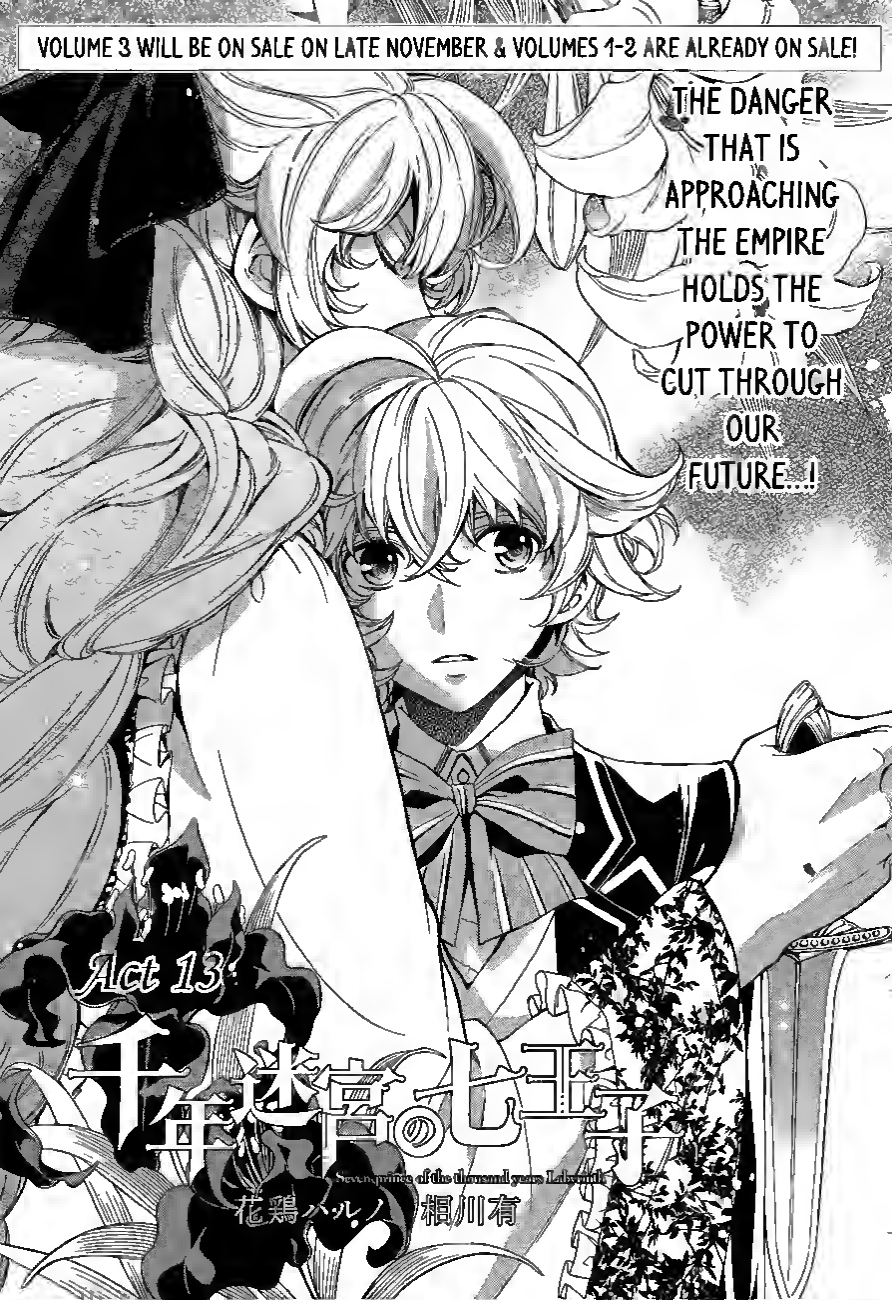
VOLUME 3 WILL BE ON SALE ON LATE NOVEMBER & VOLUMES 1-2 ARE ALREADY ON SALE!



Act 13

千年迷宮の七王子

Seven princes of the thousand years labyrinth

花鶏ハルノ
椙川有

WHY...
I HAVE A FEELING SOMETHING BAD HAS HAPPENED BUT...
IT'S WARM HERE...
EWAN WAS CAUGHT IN A TRAP!
I FEEL SAFE.

!
EWAN ?
ZAN! WAKE UP!!
ZAN!
UH...
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
YOU ARE STILL OKAY ZAN . I'M RELIEVED ..!
EVERYONE FAINTED AND THEN I..
WHERE ARE WE?
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHERS ..?
EVERYONE !!!

I WAS LATE IN GREETING YOU.
ISN'T IT TIME FOR YOU TO WAKE UP?
THAT VOICE..
IT SOUNDS LIKE THE LAUGHTER I HEARD BEFORE I FAINTED
IS HE THE ONE WHO LURED US INTO THE TRAP?
I AM THE EIGHTH CANDI-DATE.
AH...
JUST CALL ME "ANONY-MOUS HOPE."

ANONYMOUS HOPE YOU SAY..?
WE'VE KNOWN WHO YOU ARE SINCE A LONG TIME AGO!
COME OUT RIGHT NOW AMADEUS, YOU BASTARD!!
ドス
ドス
WHAT IS THIS PLACE ..?
OH MY?

WHAT A NARROW ROOM.
IS NO ONE ELSE HERE BESIDES US?
COULD IT BE THAT EVERYONE GATHERED HERE IN THIS CASTLE FOR A PURPOSE?
AND SEEMS YOU GENTLEMEN FORGOT ABOUT IT?
HUH?

WITH THIS, ALL EIGHT CANDIDATES ARE HERE.
HA!
NOW, LET'S SETTLE THIS!
DRIP
HAHA.
THERE ARE TWO MEN IN EACH ROOM, WHICH OUT OF THE PAIR IS MORE WORTHY OF BECOMING THE EMPEROR?
TWO IN EACH ROOM?
E-EVERYONE IS STILL OKAY, RIGHT?
MAYBE WE'VE BEEN SEPARATED INTO PAIRS AND HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO DIFFERENT ROOMS.
ACCORDING TO THE LAYOUT OF THIS CASTLE MADE BY THE MORGAN FAMILY
THE NAME OF THESE FOUR SMALL ROOMS IS 'THE INTERVAL BETWEEN A TRUE KING AND A FAKE KING.'
LAYOUT?

THE ONE WHO ATTAINS THE TRUE KING'S THRONE SHALL HAVE HIS WAY TO GLORY.
WAIT A SECOND.
HOW COULD THIS GUY KNOW ABOUT THE CONTENTS OF THE MAP TITUS STOLE?
WHILE THE ONE LEFT WITH THE FAKE KING'S THRONE WILL LEAD HIMSELF TO RUIN.
AND THEN A PATH SHALL BE OPENED.
.....

IN SHORT, WHETHER DEAD OR ALIVE, THE MOMENT BOTH CANDIDATES ARE PLACED TO THEIR DESIGNATED THRONES AT THE SAME TIME,
WHETHER DEAD OR ALIVE..
A NEW PATH SHALL BE OPENED.
ONLY ONE PERSON WILL MAKE IT THROUGH
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT!
BECAUSE THE OTHER WILL BE A CORPSE

AH, I FORGOT TO SAY THIS!
EVEN SO, WON'T WE JUST GROUP BACK AGAIN?
THE HELL, WHO CREATED THIS MUSICAL THRONE THINGY ANYWAY?
CHUCKLE
WHAT?!
JUST NOW, DUE TO WATER SUBMERSION, THE AREA AHEAD OF THE FAKE KING'S THRONE HAS TURNED INTO A DEAD END!
IF SO, WHERE ARE WE?
WE CAN'T GET OUT OF HERE...?

I WISH YOU A GOOD LUCK IN THIS BATTLE.
TOUCH
NOW...
I HIT YOU TOO MUCH DIDN'T I? YOU WON'T EVEN FIGHT BACK ANYMORE.
BE A GOOD BOY AND DIE, MY PRINCE.

YOU!!
WHEN DID YOU GET OUT OF THE ROPE?
IT GAVE ME THE POWER TO FORGET PAIN!
T'S SURELY EFFEC-TIVE, ISN'T IT?
THAT DRUG OF YOURS!
SHIT...
THEN, TAKE THIS!!

THIS POISON...
YOU MADE MY FATHER DRINK THIS TOO...?
AH.
IT WAS MY COMRADE WHO PUT IT IN HIS FOOD.
COM-RADE... YOU SAY...?
JUST WHO THE HELL ARE YOU...?

THE CANDIDATES ARE CHOSEN ONE BY ONE BY THE EMPEROR AND THE SEVEN MARQUISES EVERY TIME ..
YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I SAID UP UNTIL NOW, RIGHT?
HAHA
LIKE FATHER LIKE SON, TWO IDIOTS!
AS A CANDIDATE, WHY WOULD YOU ASSASSINATE THE CURRENT EMPEROR?
I'M ONE OF THE EIGHT EMPEROR CANDIDATES.
WHO AM I? YOU ALREADY KNOW IT
THERE IS A TRAITOR AMONG THE CURRENT SEVEN MARQUISES THAT SERVE FATHER...!
IT CAN'T BE!!
WHY DID YOU GO AS FAR AS TO LAYING YOUR HANDS ON EWAN AND THE OTHERS?
THE INCIDENT OF THIS CASTLE MUST HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE POLITICAL STRIFE THAT IS HAPPENING IN THE IMPERIAL CAPITAL!
HUM...
CUT
ANSWER ME!

GO ON!
AH....♡
.....
LAURENCE CAMERON, YOU TRULY ARE A BLESSED PRINCE
YOU MUST HAVE HAD A LOT OF COURAGE TO GO AS FAR AS KILLING FOR THE SAKE OF THE ONE YOU LOVE, RIGHT?
I DON'T KNOW HOW TALENTED THAT IGNIS YOUNG BIRD IS
EVEN SO, HOW FAR WOULD YOU GO FOR HIM?
IF I SEE HIM NEXT TIME, I MAY KILL HIM.
I WON'T HESITATE LIKE YOU.
.....
I'VE KILLED A LOT OF PEOPLE AFTER ALL.
CHUCKLE
CHUCKLE
CHUCKLE

EVEN IF HE TOLD ME TO NOT KILL ANYONE...
!!
EVERYTHING
IS FOR MY BELOVED AMADEUS' SAKE!

NOW, HURRY UP AND GO TO THAT THRONE.
COUGH
I CAN'T MOVE MY LEGS.
DAMN IT..
EVEN A TRUE HERO'S HEART AND INNER ORGANS WILL STOP WORKING.
IN SUCH A SMALL PLACE LIKE THIS, WITH THIS MUCH PARALYZING POWDER.
DO I HAVE NO CHOICE ...
GOOD, MY PRINCE...
BUT TO DO WHAT HE SAID ...?

AHAHA!!
HAHA!
...!?
FARE-WELL...
AS EXPECT-ED...
WHERE SHOULD WE GO NOW?

BEYOND THE FAKE KING'S THRONE THERE'S AN UNESCAPABLE HELL
HOWEVER, BEYOND THE TRUE KING'S THRONE IS WHERE HE'S HEADING RIGHT NOW I SUPPOSE?
THAT PSYCHO
MORE-OVER,
I AM REALLY WORRIED ABOUT WHAT HE SAID EARLIER...
WITH THIS, ALL EIGHT CAN-DIDATES ARE HERE.
OBVIOUSLY, HE THINKS THERE ARE EIGHT CANDI-DATES
THAT'S WHY..
BUT THE LIST HAD NINE NAMES
WHO'S OTHELO? WHERE IS HE?
IT CAN'T BE THAT HE IS HERE TOO...
ARE YOU LISTENING GIDEON ..!!?

I WONDER WHICH WAY WILL LEAD ME TO THE PATH OF GLORY?
GI.. DEON?
WHEN DID YOU UNTIE YOUR HANDS...?
AH.
I FOUND THIS ON THE GROUND
AND?

WHY DON'T YOU DECIDE?
IS THIS THE SMELL OF THAT RED LILY?
HN...
THERE IS A SWEET SCENT IN THE AIR.
I WONDER IF IT CAME THROUGH THE VENTILATION FROM ANOTHER ROOM.
ZAN... ARE YOU OKAY?
I'M... I'M FINE.

THERE AREN'T ANY EXITS HERE.
I WONDER IF WE CAN GET INSIDE THE ROOM FROM HERE.
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT BEFORE...
...?
FLICK
THE CARVING HERE FEELS LIKE A DOOR.
THERE'S SOMETHING HERE.
THROB
THROB
THROB

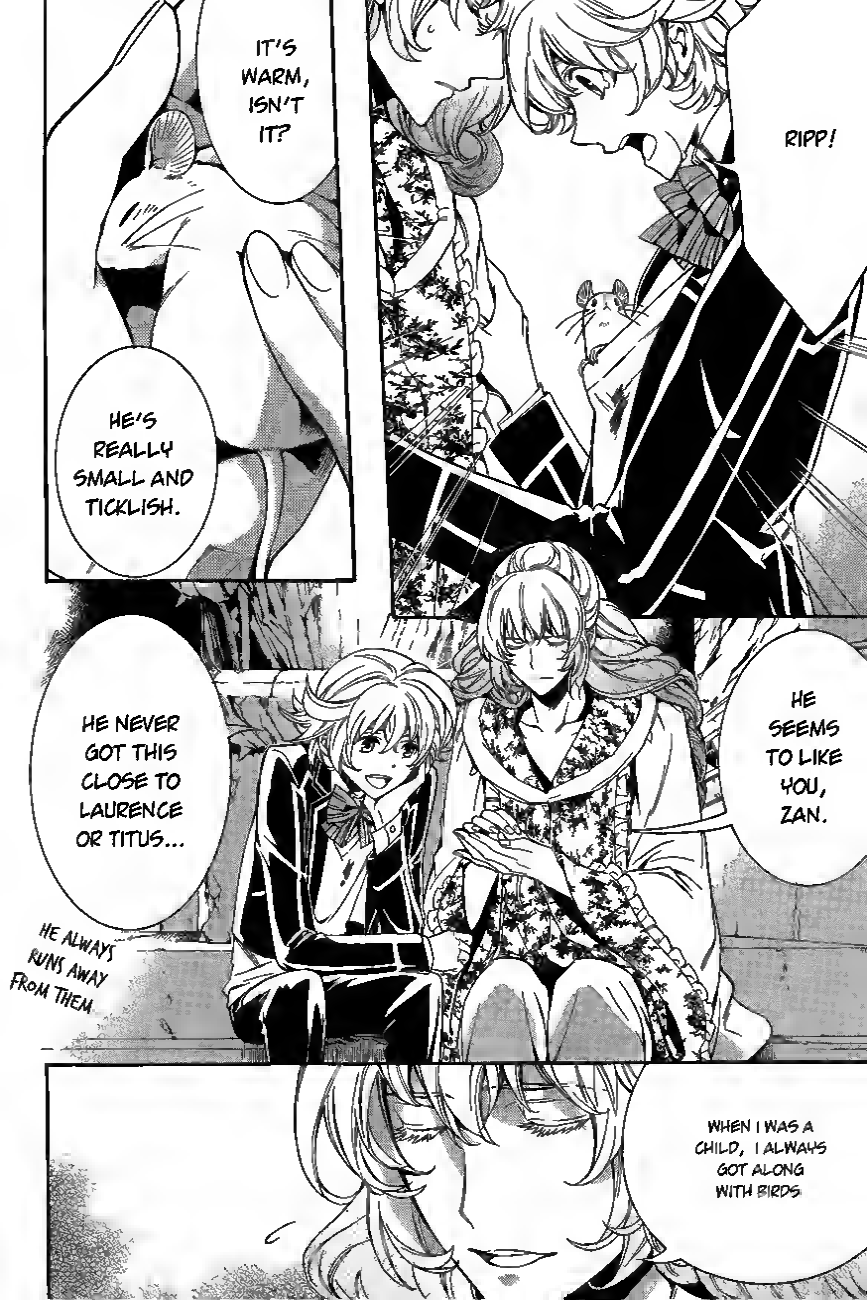
UGH...
IT WON'T OPEN!!
UGH
EWAN...
HERE I AM
WAH!
WHAT IS IT?
PLEASE, COME A LITLE CLOSER...
ZAN?
YOUR HEART, IT'S HERE, ISN'T IT?
WHAT'S WRONG, ZAN?
EWAN

HAND OVER THE TRUE KING'S THRONE.
WHAT... IS THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN?
IT'S OBVIOUS,
IN THIS GAME, YOU HAVE THE ADVANTAGE
I HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO DO THIS
FORGIVE ME.

IF YOU REFUSE, I WILL BE FORCED TO STAB YOU.
POINT
EWAN!!
THERE'S NO WAY YOU...
THAT'S A LIE...
I...
NO!!
N-...
I WOULD GLADY HAND IT OVER TO YOU
BUT...
!!
NOT LIKE THIS!!

EWAN!!
BUT THERE MUST BE A REASON FOR YOU TO DO THIS!
IF YOU REALLY MUST DO THIS, DO IT!
LET GO!
EWAN!!
THAT'S WHY...

YOU SHOULD TELL ME YOUR REASONS!
WE CAN'T GET OUT OF HERE ALIVE IF WE DON'T TRUST EACH OTHER.
IF YOU DON'T, I WON'T HAND IT OVER..."
THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID ZAN...!!
EWAN...
SQUEAK!


IT'S WARM, ISN'T IT?
HE'S REALLY SMALL AND TICKLISH.
RIPP!
HE SEEMS TO LIKE YOU, ZAN.
HE NEVER GOT THIS CLOSE TO LAURENCE OR TITUS...
HE ALWAYS RUNS AWAY FROM THEM
WHEN I WAS A CHILD, I ALWAYS GOT ALONG WITH BIRDS

AT THAT TIME, I WASN'T ALLOWED TO GO OUTSIDE.
I DIDN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS EITHER.
THE THING THAT BROUGHT ME TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD WAS MUSIC
YOU COULDN'T GO OUT TO PLAY?
MY MOTHER... SHE WAS QUITE STRICT.
MY STEP FATHER SAW THIS AND SAID THAT HE WOULD MAKE MONEY SINGING ON THE STREETS.
A BOY WHO SINGS TO THE BIRDS FROM HIS WINDOW, THERE WAS A RUMOUR LIKE THAT.
THEN, PEOPLE BEGAN TO GATHER AROUND OUR HOUSE.
AN ANGELIC SINGING VOICE
IS IT A CHILD'S VOICE?

PUTTING THIS DEMON ON DISPLAY, YOU KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN...
AND OF COURSE, MY MOTHER OBJECTED TO THE IDEA
WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
YOU KNOW NOTHING!!
WHY?
DE... MON...?
I DIDN'T UNDER-STAND WHAT SHE MEANT AT THAT TIME EITHER
BUT MOTHER WAS DRUNK AND WENT ELSEWHERE ALOT
I WONDERED ABOUT THAT. WE WENT TO PERFORM IN THE STREET CORNER EVERYDAY.
AND THEN,
I REALIZED THE THING MOTHER FEARED.

IT WAS BECAUSE I AM DIFFER-ENT.
IT WAS BECAUSE OF I SAW THINGS NOBODY ELSE COULD.
GHOSTS,
THE MOMENT ONE DIES,
IMPURITY,
ILL FORTUNE...
I REALIZED THAT I WAS ABLE TO SEE THE THINGS PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SEE
SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SEE...

GRADUALLY, I MADE SOME ACQUAINTANCES.
THERE WAS A MERCHANT FAMILY THAT BECAME MY FRIENDS
THOSE TIMES WERE JUST LIKE ILLUSIONS YOU WOULD FORGET IN AN INSTANT.
BUT WHEN I SUNG, PEOPLE WOULD CHEER
EVEN WHEN MOTHER BEAT ME, I KEPT SINGING.
THAT DAY, MISFORTUNE WAS AWAITING FOR THEM AT THEIR DESTINATION.
MUCH TO MY DISMAY, ONE DAY, I SAW THEIR UPCOMING DEATHS.
LOOKS LIKE WE'LL HAVE TO USE THE MAIN ROAD TODAY.
EH?
YOU'RE REALLY A FAN OF HIS, AREN'T YOU?
YOU WORRY TOO MUCH ZAN.
THERE WAS A BIG RAIN LAST NIGHT SO THAT MAY BE TRUE, HAHA.
PLEASE DON'T USE YOUR USUAL MOUNTAIN PATH!
IT'S REALLY DANGEROUS!!
I ENDED UP TELLING THEM

DEMON!
IT'S YOUR FAULT!!
IT'S YOUR FAULT THAT FATHER DIED!!
HOWEVER, THE RESULT DID NOT COME OUT AS I EXPECTED,
BEING UNFAMILIAR WITH THE MAIN ROAD, THEY WERE ROBBED BY BANDITS.
!
THEN... WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?
!!
MOTHER WANTED TO GOUGE OUT MY EYES.
WAIT!
I'LL GET SOME BACK-ALLEY DOCTOR TO CURE IT!!
I BEG YOU PLEASE STOP!!
MY STEP FATHER WAS THE ONE WHO STOPPED HER MADNESS.
HOW TERRIBLE... IS THAT WHY YOU EYES ARE...
THE REASON MOTHER SUDDENLY BECAME SO VIOLENT,
WAS HALF MY FAULT AND THAT FLOWER'S FAULT.

THAT FLOWER...?
THE VEMICURAS
MOTHER WAS ADDICTED TO IT FROM THE BEGINNING.
HOWEVER THE KING FORBADE IT SO IT STOPPED APPEARING IN THE MARKETS
TORMENTED BY THAT, IN THE END, SHE LEFT THE HOUSE AND NEVER CAME BACK
IS THAT THIS SWEET SCENT.
AFTER I HAD SEALED MY EYES, MY POWER SEEMED TO HAVE GONE COMPLETELY, BUT...
COMPARED TO OTHERS, MY SIXTH SENSE HAS ALWAYS BEEN STRONGER
RIGHT NOW...
I COULD FEEL IT WHEN I TOUCHED THAT DAGGER EARLIER
EWAN
YOU MUST NOT GO TO THE TRUE KING'S THRONE.
THE SMELL SEEMS TO BRING BACK THE ABILITY I HAD AS A CHILD.
IT CAN'T BE.

BEYOND THERE AWAITS YOU A TRAITOR...
AND THEN, ONLY DEATH.
WHY... I...
I CAN'T HELP BUT BEING AFRAID OF LOSING YOU NOW.
IT'S ONLY MY ONE-SIDED THOUGHT.
OR THE COUNTRY'S. I DON'T KNOW
THANK YOU, ZAN
FOR TELLING ME ALL THIS

LAURENCE SAID THAT A MURDEROUS AURA HAS BEEN FOLLOWING ME SINCE THE BEGINNING
I'M REALLY AFRAID OF BEING MADE AN ENEMY...
IF SO... THEN I MUST PROCEED
EWAN...!
IT'S MYSELF.
THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN STOP IT.
BUT...
UM...
BUT NO MATTER WHERE WE GO, WE ARE NOT ALONE.
EVERYONE WILL BE WAITING UP AHEAD.
I...
IT SEEMS I CAN'T STOP YOU AFTER ALL...

MOTHER, WHO LEARNT ABOUT THIS, SUDDENLY CAME TO SEE ME.
SEVERAL YEARS LATER SINCE MOTHER LEFT...
I HAD BEEN GAINING REPUTATION ON STAGES AND BECAME A PRETTY WELL-KNOWN FIGURE.
CAN I ASK YOU ONE MORE THING?
ABOUT THAT TATTOO ON YOUR BACK...
.....
SHE TOLD ME THAT THE MOMENT ANYBODY SAW MY REAL UGLY SELF NO ONE WOULD EVER LOVE ME.
AND THAT IN ORDER TO STOP THIS DEMONIC BLOOD OF MINE,
I SHOULD ENGRAVE A TATTOO ON MY BODY TO USE AS A SEALING SPELL.
I WAS SCARED SO
I HAVE NEVER SHOWN MY NAKED SELF TO ANOTHER PERSON... NOT EVEN WHEN I SHARED BEDS WITH SOMEONE.
W-WHAT!?

I'M GLAD!!
EVEN SO, MANY PEOPLE STILL LOVE YOU!
SO THAT CURSE ON YOUR BACK IS NOT AS STRONG AS YOU THINK!
I ,TOO, WILL BREAK MY CURSE
ZAN, PLEASE TAKE GOOD CARE OF RIPP.
EWAN!!

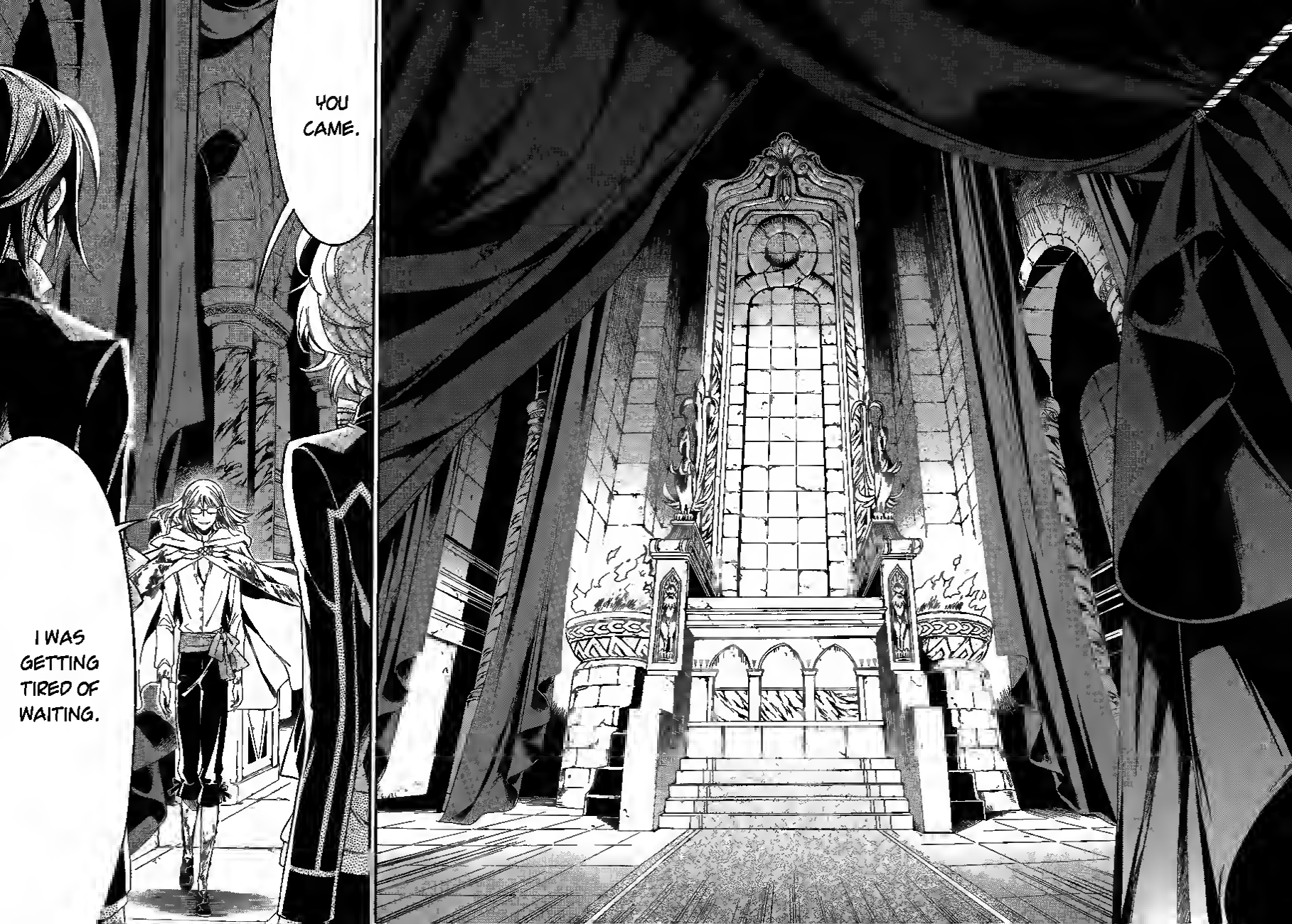
IT TURNED OVER...
THAT SURPRISED ME
I DIDN'T EXPECT IT.
!!!
I'M GLAD THAT ZAN TOLD ME ABOUT THE TATTOO...
IF HE'D JUST KEPT SILENT...
I'D HAVE BEEN A LITTLE UNEASY.
I THINK WE HAVE THE SAME ENEMY.
IT'S SCARY NOT KNOWING WHO IS IT...

THIS IS..?
EWAN!!
MESSIAH! YOU'RE ALRIGHT..
I KNEW THAT IT WAS THIS ROUTE.
WAS ZAN AUDUPON WITH YOU?
YES, HE WAS, BUT..
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
THE CULPRIT MAY HAVE USED HIS OWN ADVANTAGE TO DIVIDE THE ROOMS
HIS ADVANTAGE?

HE'S MOST LIKELY TARGETING YOU, EWAN.
SERIOUSLY
SINCE ZAN IS BLIND, YOU CHOSE THIS DANGEROUS ROUTE YOURSELF, RIGHT?
DANGEROUS ... YOU MEAN THE PLACE WHERE THE CULPRIT IS RIGHT NOW?
TITUS LET ME TO GO THIS WAY
HE DID!?
AND TO YOU MESSIAH!?
WHAT DID YOU DO!?
KNEELED DOWN!?
I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT.
I WONDER IF THERE ARE ANY ENTRANCES UP AHEAD
REMEMBER THE VOW I MADE TO YOU?
?
HUH? YOU MEAN...
EWAN...

I SHALL GLADLY ELIMINATE IT FOR YOU...
ANYTHING THAT BLOCKS YOUR WAY
I DO... REMEMBER.
IF SO, JUST ONE THING.
.....
I ONLY HAVE ONE REQUEST,
IF ANYTHING WERE TO HAPPEN AHEAD...

I WANT YOU TO BELIEVE IN ME.
M-MESSIAH ...!?


YOU CAME.
I WAS GETTING TIRED OF WAITING.

MY AMA-DEUS !!!
Much to his faith... Those shocking words...
TO BE CONTINUED.

AQUA SCANS
PRESENTS
Sennen Meikyuu no Nana Ouji c.13
RW: SERYA-CHAN
ED: AOI & MIZUOUJI
TL: JUNYO
PR: KEITOHASUMI
QC: MIZUOUJI
HTTP://AQUASCANS.WORDPRESS.COM/